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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Thursday 20th August 2020
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Mysuru is India's Cleanest Medium City

- Indore retains Cleanest City of India tag for fourth year in a row; Surat bags second spot, Navi Mumbai ranked third
- Mysuru top city under population category of 3 to 10 lakh; Hunsur, K.R. Nagar, Periyapatna, H.D. Kote too bag awards

Mysuru/New Delhi, Aug. 20 (RK&BCT)- The Union Government this noon announced the results of annual survey of cleanliness, Swachh Survekshan 2020 and Indore once again retained the top spot as the Cleanest City of India. Indore bagged the spot fourth time in a row, Gujarat's Surat on second spot and Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai on third.

Mysuru got the India's Cleanest Medium City Award for a population bracket of 3 to 10 lakh. Mysuru had won the award for the Cleanest City of India in the first two editions of the survey in 2015 and 2016, while Indore has retained the top position for four consecutive years (2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020).

This is the fifth edition of the survey that was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2016.

The list was released virtually by Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In Mysuru, the virtual event was organised at Mysore Palace.

(See CLEANEST on page 7)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Man unites wife in death

H.D. Kote, Aug. 20 (Srinidhi & KS)- A man, unable to bear the grief of his wife's death, passed away the next day, thus uniting with her in death.

Choodamani (70), wife of Annaiahsomachar, a resident of Halsur in Saragur taluk, passed away yesterday evening following a heart attack at her son's residence in Mysuru.

Her husband Annaiahsomachar (80), who too was staying along with his wife at their son's residence, collapsed on hearing the news of his wife's death and was rushed to a private hospital in city where he too suffered a heart attack and passed away in the wee hours of today.

Annaiahsomashar was a Zamindar and was also teaching children at the village school in the absence of teachers. The couple leaves behind two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites will be held at the couple's farm land at Halsur village today.

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FROM 12TH AUG TO 31ST AUG

Mysuru COVID-19 UPDATE

Figures as per Government Media Bulletin released last evening

Positive cases yesterday	:	562
Total positive cases	:	12,051
Discharges yesterday	:	240
Total discharges	:	7,302
Deaths yesterday	:	05
Total deaths	:	320
Total active cases	:	4,429

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Thursday 20th August 2020

National Recruitment Agency gets Cabinet approval

Only one Common Eligibility Test for Central Government jobs; a boon for youngsters

New Delhi, Aug. 20 (UNI)- In a major reform in the recruitment process, the Union Cabinet yesterday approved the creation of National Recruitment Agency (NRA) for conducting a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for Central Government jobs.

Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who chaired the cabinet meeting, claimed that the NRA will prove to be a boon for crores of youngsters, saying it will eliminate multiple tests and save precarious time as well as resources.

"The National Recruitment Agency will prove to be a boon for crores of youngsters. Through the Common Eligibility Test, it will eliminate multiple tests and save precious time as well as resources. This will also be a big boost to transparency," Modi tweeted.

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,517.57 crore for setting up the NRA, which will be headquartered in Delhi. The multi-agency body will conduct a Common Eligibility Test to screen or shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts.

NRA will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB and IBPS. It is envisioned that the NRA would be a specialist body bringing the state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment. The Government claims the reform will give a major relief to poor candidates and those from rural areas.

"Presently, the candidates have to appear in multiple examinations conducted by multiple agencies. Apart from the examination fees, candidates have to incur additional expenses for travel, boarding, lodging and other such. A single examination would reduce the financial burden on candidates to a large extent," reads a blog on the website of the PM.

The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result. The best of the valid scores shall be deemed to be the current score of the candidate. There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit.

The NRA will conduct a separate CET each for the three levels of graduate, higher secondary (12th pass) and the matriculate (10th pass) candidates for those non-technical posts to which recruitment is presently carried out by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

WOMENSTRUATION: ***Call it a pad-adigm shift. As eyebrows shot up and jaws dropped, NaMoji uttered the taboo 'M' word — not in a Whisper, but amplified for the entire nation on Freedom Day. For those who don't deign to know about such lowly-womanly things, these are brand names of sanitary towels (ST), a product soaked in as much shame as the biological process that requires it. Now, the makers of the former brand can, on the highest authority, change 'Whisper' to 'Shout'. As for 'Freedom', thanks to the caring PM's provision of Re. 1 sanitary pads, India's women will gain independence from all the full stops that accompany their periods. Really? Will Modi's frontal mention take menstruation out of the enforced isolation that women are lockdown-ed in every month? The PM was still bathed in Ram temple glow when he made that historic announcement. Whatever. The PM still created menses herstory. Give him a standing ovation.*** — *Bachi Karkaria in The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

$1.5 million COVID mask is made of gold, diamonds

Motza: Art rather than ostentation is the rationale behind the world's most expensive coronavirus mask, say Israeli jewelers, who are crafting the $1.5 million object for an unnamed U.S.-based client.

Made out of 18 carat gold and studded with 3,600 black and white diamonds, the mask will be fitted with an N99 filter to offer a high level of protection, said Isaac Levy, owner of the Yvel jewelry brand.

The mask, which a team of around 25 artisans is working on, might be viewed a vulgar display of wealth during hard economic times, but for Levy it is above all a work of art.

Kitty drug mule flees from high-security prison

Colombo: This is a kitty with such a talent for escaping from prison, it would make El Chapo proud. Law enforcement in Sri Lanka took a cat into a high-security prison for smuggling illegal contraband until it reportedly fled.

Dubbed the 'Felonious Feline,' the cat was nabbed on Welikada Prison grounds with 1.7 grams of heroin, two SIM cards and a memory chip rolled into a small plastic bag and tucked into its collar, according to local news sources.

Officers had hoped the cat would find a way to lead them to the drug den from where it came. As guards were attempting to feed the cat, the cat made a break. Local authorities have announced they will not seek further investigation.

Sri Lanka's Department of Prisons recently uncovered a caper conducted by criminal ringleader Angoda Lokka, who died while in hiding in July. Police had discovered an air rifle, bullets and a caged eagle, which authorities believed was used to smuggle drugs.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

What are the consequences of not drinking enough water?

Dehydration has been linked to weight gain, fatigue, anxiety and mood. It may also contribute to your afternoon circadian rhythm slump.

** Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

State demands autonomy for Classical Kannada Centre

Bengaluru, Aug. 20 (Agencies)- Karnataka has demanded the Centre to grant autonomous status for the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK), Mysuru. Minister for Kannada and Culture C.T. Ravi on Tuesday met Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and submitted a memorandum in this regard.

Ravi

Pokhriyal

The CESCK was inaugurated in 2011 at the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in Mysuru. The State Government has already sanctioned land for construction of a building and temporary office in University of Mysore (UoM), said Ravi.

In his representation, Ravi recalled that the Centre had acceded to the Tamil Nadu Government's request immediately and transferred the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) to Chennai with autonomous status. "This has opened up avenues and opportunities to Tamil research in a big way," he said. "After it was separated from CIIL, the CICT as an autonomous organisation has done a lot of meaningful work."

Looking at the CICT growth, the Karnataka Government has appealed to the Centre to grant autonomous status and release funds for various activities of the CESCK so that it can take up research works and other activities, he added.

It may be recalled here that recently, the State Government decided to grant a 10-acre land for CESCK at the foot of Chamundi Hill. The land belongs to UoM. The decision to this effect was taken on Aug. 7 at a meeting chaired by Ravi.

Following the meeting, Ravi said the Government has directed the UoM Registrar Prof. K. Shivappa to hand over 10 acres of land belonging to the UoM at the foothill to CIIL for establishing the Classical Kannada Studies Centre at the earliest.

The Varsity has 23 acres of land at the foot of Chamundi Hill. Earlier, it was decided to allot three acres of land belonging to the UoM in the Old Tahsildar Office premises opposite Premier Studio on Hunsur Road.

But later the Higher Education Department wrote to the UoM cancelling the allotment. Subsequently, the Higher Education Department was appealed to sanction land belonging to UoM on the outskirts of city, following which the Higher Education Minister agreed to allot 10 acres of land at the foothill.

Really...?

- ***Indonesia is home to some of the shortest people in the world.***
- ***Japan is the world's most earthquake-prone country.***
- ***There are around 4 quadrillion quadrillion bacteria on Earth.***
- ***Africa and Asia are home to nearly 90 percent of the world's rural population.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Doctor: *Do exercise daily for good health.*
Boy: *I play tennis, football and cricket daily.*
Doctor: *Very good! How long do you play ?*
Boy: *Until the battery in my mobile goes down !?*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.02
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 98.10
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.42
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.80

VOICE OF THE READER

Street dogs menace on the rise: Will MCC act?

Sir,

This is to draw the attention of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) authorities towards substantial number of unsterilised stray dogs that are causing public nuisance on Ashoka Road, East Cross-32, Lashkar Mohalla.

These stray dogs scatter the leftover food particles and packets dumped by the residents at a place for clearance all over the road. These strays also jump over the compound, enter the premises and tear the car tarpaulin to pieces besides dirtying the place. Especially at night time the dog fight disturbs our sleep.

Unable to bear the dog menace, I had lodged a complaint with MCC on 3.6.2020 which was duly acknowledged vide complaint number MYS-JH-VET-20-21-1405351 with an assurance that the issue will be resolved by 5.6.2020. In pursuant of my complaint some people came to nab the dogs with just a net and failed to catch them and left the place with an assurance that they would come back again. When I went on complaining in this regard over phone, I was utterly shocked to get an unreasonable direction to catch these strays by myself and that they would come and take them away. When these professional paid personnel of MCC cannot catch them, how can one expect a senior citizen like me to do their job?

Hence, I appeal to the MCC Commissioner to take appropriate and immediate action to put an end to this stray menace.

— Govindraj Rajagopal
Mysuru
15.8.2020

Calling Law grads

Mysuru, Aug. 20- The Backward Classes Welfare Department has invited applications from eligible law graduates of Mysuru district belonging to backward classes for four-year judicial administration training (2020-21).

Selected candidates will be trained under Government Pleaders or Public Prosecutors or experienced lawyers and given a monthly stipend of Rs. 4,000.

Interested law grads may apply before Sept. 16. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2342917, according to a press release.

CET results tomorrow

Bengaluru, Aug.20- The results of Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to under-graduate professional courses, which was to be announced today, will now be announced tomorrow (Aug. 21).

Deputy CM and Higher Education Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan said that the results have been postponed due to technical reasons. Students can access the results on *http://karresults.nic.in* after 12.30 pm on Aug. 21. The test is a gateway for engineering, agriculture and other professional courses.

CET was held amidst a slew of precautionary measures on July 30 and 31. The exam, which was scheduled in April, was postponed due to COVID-19. Over 1.9 lakh students had registered for the test.

Ph.D entrance exam: UoM extends last date to apply

Mysuru, Aug. 20- Due to COVID-19, University of Mysore (UoM) has issued an order extending the last date to apply for Ph.D Entrance Exam till Aug. 31. This is the fourth time that the last date to apply for Ph.D has been extended so far.

Earlier, due to lockdown, the period to apply for the entrance exam which was scheduled from Feb. 18 to Mar. 16, was postponed to Mar. 17 to July 5. Second time, the date was extended till July 25 and third time, it was extended till July 30. As the number of positive cases is increasing by the day, the Govt. has not given permission to conduct the exam and hence, an order has been issued extending the last date to Aug. 31.

Over 5,000 students: Already 5,097 students have applied for Ph.D in 70 subjects and due to COVID-19, applications are being accepted without any late fee, said University Registrar (Evaluation) Dr. K.M. Mahadevan.

Shoe World's Ganesha Fest offer

Mysuru, Aug.20- Shoe World, one of the leading footwear dealers at Ramaswamy Circle in Mysuru, has opened its second outlet at Shivarampet, opposite Mannars Market in city.

This new store has MCP and Medifeet soft footwear which are diabetes and ortho-friendly.

As part of Ganesha Festival, the new store has announced 'Buy 2 Get 1 Free Offer' on all in-house brands of gents and ladies footwear and discount on other MNC brands and Kids footwear. Also, free face mask will be given on purchases of Rs. 499 and above. This offer is valid till Aug.31.

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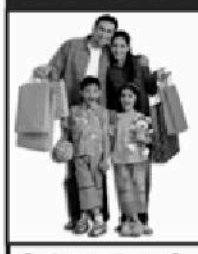

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NEWS BRIEFS

Sri Rajendra Swamiji's 105th Jayanti

Jagadguru Sri Veerasimhasana Mahasamsthana Mutt Peethadhipati Dr. Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Swamiji's 105th Jayanti will be celebrated in a simple manner on Aug. 29. Due to COVID-19, a digital event will be held on the occasion which includes inauguration, interaction, animation movie and book release, prize distribution, Pratibha Puraskar, screening of videos and quiz.

Online Workshop

Sri Ravishankar Guruji's Art of Living has organised Online Breath and Meditation Workshop from Aug.24 to 27 from 6 am to 8 am, 11 am to 1 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm. For details, contact Mob: 98459-63387.

Skill Connect

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has come up with 'Skill Connect' portal to provide skill training to candidates as per the requirement of various business, industries and employers. Employers and job-seekers can visit www.kaushalkar.com and register under 'Skill Connect' portal. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2970815 or Mob: 98444-91522, according to a press release from District Skill Development Officer.

ITI Admissions

Applications have been invited for admission to Saligrama Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) for the year 2020-21. Candidates, who have passed SSLC, can apply for Electrician, Electronic Mechanic, Fitter, ICTSM and MRAC trades. Interested may apply online (www.emptrg.kar.nic.in) before Aug. 31, according to a press release from the Saligrama Government ITI Principal.

KRS Water Level

(Maximum : 124.80 feet)

Today	123.90 ft
Yesterday	124.10 ft
Inflow	14,862 cusecs
Outflow	5,260 cusecs

Kabini Level

(Maximum : 2,284.00 feet)

Today	2,283.89 ft
Inflow	4,597 cusecs
Outflow	3,271 cusecs

Harangi Level

(Maximum : 2,859.00 feet)

Today	2,858.08 ft
Inflow	1,995 cusecs
Outflow	1,500 cusecs

Five arrested for attempting to sell tusks, deer skull and antlers in Mysuru

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (MTY&KS)- The Mysuru Forest Mobile Squad have arrested five persons on charges of attempting to sell a pair of elephant tusks, deer skull and antlers and have recovered the tusks, deer skull and antlers besides seizing two Honda Dio scooters from them.

The arrested are Vinod of Chandra Layout in Bengaluru, Abdul Razak of Gayathripuram in Mysuru, Nagaraja of Tilaknagar, Ravikumar of Agrahara and Goutham of Metagalli in Mysuru.

Acting on a tip off that five persons were trying to sell the tusks, deer skull and antlers near the Ring Road Railway track at Abdul Kalam Nagar in city, the Forest Mobile Squad on Aug. 18 raided the spot and arrested them.

Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) A.T. Poovaiah, speaking to *Star of Mysore,* said that, during interrogation, Vinod said that the tusks were at his house in Kodagu since a very long time and due to financial crisis, he wanted to sell the tusks and Vinod also revealed that Abdul Razak was his friend, who had the deer skull and antlers and they were trying to sell them together.

The DCF also said that the tusks look very old and it has to be ascertained whether the animals were poached.

A case has been registered by the Forest Department and the Mobile Squad led by DCF Poovaiah comprised Lakshmish (In-charge RFO), DRFOs Mohan, Nagaraju, Sundar and Pramod, Forest Guards Satish, Channabasavaiah, Govind, Mahantesh, Ravinandan, Ravikumar, Sharanabasappa and Kotresh and drivers Madhu and Puttaswamy.

Moharram: Govt. issues guidelines

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (KS)- In view of the rapid spreading of COVID-19, the Health and Family Welfare Secretariat, Government of India, in reference to the Moharram rituals, observed from Aug. 21 to 30 by all sections of the Muslim community by taking out processions, conducting Majlis, Fateha and Ziyarath in the Ashurkhanas/ Masjids and Dargas, has issued guidelines prohibiting large gathering and congregation.

A.B. Ibrahim, Secretary, Department of Minority Welfare, Haj and Wakf, has given the proceedings of the Government of Karnataka (Order dated 14.8.2020) for strict implementation of COVID-19 protocol and guidelines, which are as follows:

1. No Alams/ Panja should be installed in public places and Tazia is prohibited in public places. Congregation and processions from Aug. 21 to 30 is prohibited in all districts and devotees participating in Moharram rituals should be limited to minimum number and social distancing should be maintained.

2. Public gathering and taking out processions are prohibited.

3. Congregation of any type is prohibited in any public places including Khabarastans (burial grounds) and visit to Khabarastans is allowed only for the purpose of burials and not for rituals connected to Moharram.

4. Majlis-e-Aza Imam Hussain (A.S) (Religious Sermons) is permitted only in halls by maintaining social distancing and taking all preventive measures of COVID-19 protocol.

5. Distribution of Tabaruk/ Sharbat/ Drinking Water is permitted only in sealed packets by maintaining social distance and devotees are not allowed to consume the same in the premises of Ashurkhanas.

6. Ashurkhanas/ Masjids/ Dargahs and other places, where Alams/ Tazias are installed should be sanitised or disinfected.

7. The number of participants may be reduced at fateha and for Majlis-e-Aza (A.S) by ensuring the capacity of gathering as per the Ministry of Health, Government of India, guidelines of COVID-19. The general public and devotees are advised to offer fateha/ Majlis at their respective houses in view of COVID-19.

8. Carpets should be removed and seating places should be marked by maintaining social distancing after every Majlis-e-Aza.

9. Touching of Panja, Alam and Tazia should be avoided and Ziyarath should be done from safe distance only.

10. Entry of devotees should be monitored by avoiding large gatherings.

11. The Management Committees/ Muthavallies/ Administrators should display the maximum number of devotees accommodated in Asthanas/ Ashurkhanas for Majlis and should close the gates once the devotees occupy the slots.

12. The DOs and DON'Ts for devotees should be announced in loud speakers.

13. Use of face masks is mandatory for all devotees.

14. Wadhu (Ablution) should be performed at houses.

15. Persons above 60 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, asymptomatic persons and children below 10 years are not allowed for Ziyarath. They should offer prayers at their respective houses.

16. All individuals should maintain social distancing of 6ft. at all times.

17. Compulsory thermal screening should be done at the entry points.

18. Santiser and provision for washing hands with liquid soap should be made at the entrance and at appropriate places.

19. Holy Quran, other religious literature and Tasbeehs should be kept in safe custody.

20. Special attention should be given to unknown entrants for health and security purposes.

21. Beggars should not be allowed to sit outside Ashurkhanas/ Masjids or Dargahs.

22. Guidelines issued by the State Government and the District Administration should be strictly followed.

This order of restricting the celebration is issued only for this year and shall not be a precedent for future cases and the Managing Committees/ Muthwallis/ Administrators of Wakf institutions should take necessary steps to strictly implement the Moharram guidelines. The Wakf Officers in the State shall ensure the adherence of the guidelines and circulate the same to all Managing Committees/ Muthwallies/ Administrators of Wakf institutions and any derelictions in this regard would be viewed seriously.

Obituary

Swamy

Mysuru, Aug. 20- Swamy (72), proprietor of 'Mallige Idli' Hotel at Agrahara, passed away yesterday following heart attack.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this morning.

Sathyanarayana Rao Shastry

Sathyanarayana Rao Shastry (71), a resident of LIC Colony in Srirampura, passed away yesterday following heart attack.

He was a purohit by profession and uncle of Arjun Guruji, a religious thinker.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday, according to sources.

Bhaskar

Bhaskar (62), a resident of Ittigegud, passed away on Aug. 18 at his residence in city.

A bachelor, he leaves behind a sister, brothers and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday, according to sources.

Loan burden forcing taxi drivers to sell vehicles

COVID financial help by Govt. not reached even 10% of drivers

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (PM&KS)- Drivers-cum-owners of taxis in city, who have already suffered huge loss following COVID lockdown, are yet to earn their normal livelihood and now, with banks asking them to repay their loans, they are forced to sell their vehicles.

Also the Rs. 5,000 financial help announced by the Government has not reached even 10% of drivers. This apart, road tax and insurance are also exerting pressure on drivers-cum- owners and with no business, their earnings have come down drastically which is also another factor for them to sell their vehicles.

Many taxi drivers, who have either attached their vehicles to various travel companies or driving them on their own are members of Mysore District Tourist Vehicle Drivers and Owners Welfare Association. They told *Star of Mysore* that the Rs. 5,000 financial help by the Government has not reached them. They further said that they had received a message asking them to link their Aadhaar Card number and after doing the same the only message they got was 'your documents are being checked.' Nothing more has happened, they added.

Kishan, a driver, said that he was working as a driver of a cab at a travel company and following lockdown for three months, he was removed from the job.

He further said that his handicapped father often falls ill and he is unable to pay for the treatment and also buy medicines. "I have to pay the house rent for four months, take care of the family and even the Government's financial help has not reached me," Kishan rued.

Venkatesh, an owner-cum-driver said, "I purchased a new vehicle in January and have paid two loan instalments. Lockdown was enforced from March and though the RBI extended the moratorium for bank loans till Aug. 31, private finance companies were forcing to pay the loan instalments. I somehow managed to pay the instalment of a month. But now, I do not have any financial resource and with zero income, I am planning to sell the vehicle. But the buyers are ready to purchase only for half the price. I am confused and don't know what to do."

Meanwhile, Mysore District Tourist Vehicle Drivers and Owners Welfare Association Vice-President R. Prabhakar said that a few travel companies are not paying salaries for drivers, who are working since 10 years at the companies. "The lives of drivers are in distress. The company managements tell them to work if they are interested or leave. A 35-year-old travel company, following enforcement of lockdown has removed 150 drivers. Where will these drivers go?" he asked.

Prabhakar further said that if the public hire taxies instead of moving around in their own vehicles many drivers would earn their livelihood. "We take all precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the public need not fear about it. We request industrialists, public and officials to utilise our services," he appealed.

More than 80 owners ready to sell their vehicles: Mysore District Tourist Vehicle Drivers and Owners Welfare Association President S. Nagaraj said that more than 80 owners-cum-drivers of the Association have come forward to sell their vehicles.

"Though they sell their vehicles, they are not getting the correct price. Buyers ask for half the price of the vehicle. I had bought a Toyota Innova for Rs. 13.5 lakh and sold it for Rs. 5 lakh recently. I should have got at least Rs. 8 lakh for it. But as I was in deep financial crisis, I had to sell it for a very low price as there was no options," he said.

He further said that the Association has 850 members and the Government's financial help of Rs. 5,000 has not even reached 10% of them.

"We have requested the Government to give time till next January for repayment of loans, road tax and insurance," he said and added that there are 150 travel agencies, 4,000 taxies and tourist vehicles in Mysuru district. Many taxi drivers have sold their vehicles and are now selling face masks to earn their livelihood, while a few have indulged in agricultural activities, he added.

Tourist bus owners, drivers stage protest

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (PM&KS)- More than 30 tourist bus owners, drivers and owners-cum-drivers, under the banner of Mysuru District Tourist Bus Owners' Association, staged a protest near Deputy Commissioner's Office this morning urging for fulfilment of their various demands.

They said that COVID-19 pandemic had caused severe financial crisis due to lack of business causing a lot of problems in maintaining their families and also payment of loans, taxes besides stating that it would take at least two years for the tourist activities to return to normalcy.

They have requested the Government to waive off taxes of at least six months and take 50% taxes for the next six months.

Pointing out that the six months time extended by banks and finance companies for loan repayment was not sufficient, the protestors have urged for another six months time. They have also urged for the attachment of Yellow Board vehicles to MSME companies as per the order of the Union Government.

Association President A.V. Prithviraj said that Rs. 4 lakh per bus (49 seater) was being paid as taxes per year, which was the highest compared to taxes in other States and warned of laying siege to Vidhana Soudha with their buses, if their demands were not met at the earliest.

They later submitted a memorandum to Borappa, Deputy Tahsildar at the DC Office. Association Hon. President Somanna, Vice-President H.N. Rajashekar, member Manoj and others were present.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E- Tender Notice No. 27/MYS/2020
Dated:14.08.2020

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works :

Name of Work	Approx. Value
Sasalu Station: Construction of goods loading platform wall 720mtrs length, 1.065mtr above rail level-1 No. and PF wall 600mtrs length, 0.60mtrs above rail level-2 Nos. and RCC drain 0.60mtrs wide, 500mtrs length.	Rs. 1,59,60,944/-
Last date for submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs. of 07.09.2020	
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in	
Divisional Railway Manager(Works), Mysuru	

PUB/121/AAI/IPRB/SWR/2020-21

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ (ಪೂ)
ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570024. ಫೋನ್/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821-2418828

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಂ(ಪೂ)/ಟೆಎಪ್-34/20-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.08.2020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ 14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು 9 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ "E-Procurement" Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದುವರೆದು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.08.2020ರ ನಂತರ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ತಮ್ಮ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.09.2020** ಹಾಗೂ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.09.2020** ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂ) ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ದಾಖಲಾಂಕ/ಮೈಸೂರು/391/2020-21

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National Education Policy-2020 for India

'Twinning of Schools' concept in NEP is *Pratham Mysore's* contribution !

The concept of "Twinning of Schools" as envisaged in the new National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) is an idea that ***Pratham Mysore*** developed and implemented a year ago. It adds value to a child's learning. The twinning (pairing) was between **Excel Public School** and **MG Koppal School.** The new NEP has validated ***Pratham Mysore's*** thinking and it is a proud moment for the NGO. This article is a report of the experiment that ***Pratham Mysore*** developed and implemented successfully. The note in the end by K.G. Mathew, Principal, Excel Public School, the partner in the initiative, is testimony to the programme's success.—**Ed**

By Ashvini Ranjan
Founder-Trustee, Pratham Mysore
[www.prathammysore.org]

Ashvini Ranjan

Much of the spotlight of the new National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) is on its highlights. The importance of early child education, rationalisation of school education system from 10+2 years format to 5+3+3+4 years, reducing curriculum content load, making space for critical thinking, increased funding towards education will be path-breaking when implemented both in letter and spirit. It will surely elevate our educational standards to be on par with any other developed nation. The NEP is 60 pages long and it is natural to miss many other significant initiatives and suggestions. One such nugget is contained in Clause 7.10. This clause reads as follows:

"To further enhance co-operation and positive synergy among schools, including between public and private schools, the twinning / pairing of one public school with one private school will be adopted across the country, so that such paired schools may meet / interact with each other, learn from each other, and also share resources, if possible. Best practices of private schools will be documented, shared, and institutionalised in public schools, and vice versa, where possible."

Anyone who is familiar with the Indian schooling system will instantly recognise the merit in the above inclusion. There exists a vast divide between the public schools and private schools. The private schools, thanks in part to the higher fees charged and more accomplished teachers, offer better quality education. Better infrastructure obviously results in better outcomes. The twinning programme included under Section 7 (Efficient Resourcing) of the NEP hopes to bridge this divide.

Pratham Mysore, an NGO working to improve the quality of education among public school children, had, for exactly these reasons piloted the 'Twinning' programme in early 2019 in Mysuru. The inclusion of this 'Twinning' programme in NEP is now a validation of its ideas. Here below is an account of the twinning programme it initiated between **Excel Public School** *(https://excelpublicschool.com/eps/)*, a much sought after private school and **Manche Gowdanakoppal School (MG Koppal School),** a public school.

Methodology of the Twinning Programme

A preliminary assessment of the short-listed public and private schools was made to evaluate the aspirations of the children and teachers to ensure a proper match. In the public school, children of Class 5, 6 and 7 were chosen for the programme as it required certain level of maturity and communication skill. And at the private school, students selected were from Classes 9 and 10 so that older kids would be able to show greater empathy and patience in dealing with younger kids of the public school.

Pratham Mysore ensured that the objectives (to teach the public school children to improve conversational English, computer skills and interpersonal skills) of the programme was clearly communicated to all the stakeholders. The consent of parents of all the children involved was taken in advance. It also ensured the availability of basic infrastructure such as computers, WiFi connectivity and relevant library books were available in the public school. It was equally important that private schools would provide teachers to accompany during visits and transport to ferry children on designated days. This included periodical visits by public school children to private school. *Pratham* volunteer's presence made sure that there were no gaps in the programme's roll out.

Outcome

- A survey conducted among children of public schools prior to and after the twinning experiment revealed some interesting observations. Prior to the programme, majority of children aspired to be teachers, Policemen or secure a Government job when they grew up. At the end of six months, aspirations had widened in scope to becoming engineers, doctors, pilots, IT professionals and the like.
- Many had created their own individual e-mail IDs and were also accessing the internet for more information on word meanings, careers and opportunities.
- Teachers of public schools too were eager to improve their own language competencies, computer and life skills. This ensured a greater level of enthusiasm and participation.
- Children and teachers were using more English words while conversing among their friends and appeared more confident to express themselves.
- On the part of the private school children, they were far more conscious of their good fortune of being born to parents who could afford better schools and greater comforts.
- We found a bond developing between kids between the schools and hopefully this friendship will last long after the structured programme is over.

When this experiment drew the attention of the media, more schools expressed a desire to be a part of the programme. Prior to the lockdown and closure of schools on account of the pandemic, **De Paul School** was in early stage of visits to **Vontikoppal Government School** and **Kautilya Vidyalaya** was evaluating a partner public school. Request from other schools have been put on hold till schools reopen in Mysuru.

Pratham Mysore will be happy to share its learnings with any authority that wishes to develop and introduce the programme to other schools across the country.

Principal speaks

The beneficiaries of this programme were not just the students of the 'public school' involved, but the student-volunteers from our school as well. I interacted with some of our students and I could feel that they developed a better sense of social sensitivity and responsibility, something missing from the children from 'privileged backgrounds' these days. They also seemed very happy and proud to be 'volunteers for a noble cause.'

— K.G. Mathew, Principal, Excel Public School, Mysuru

Palar bomb blast case convict dies at K.R. Hospital

22 persons were killed in blast engineered by forest brigand Veerappan on April 9, 1993

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (ACP& BCT)- A convict in the Palar bomb blast case, engineered by forest brigand Veerappan, breathed his last at K.R. Hospital in city this morning. He has been identified as 66-year-old Moris Gownder Bilavendran.

Deceased Bilavendran

Bilavendran was housed at the Mysuru Central Prison and hailed from Maartalli village in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district.

He was admitted to K.R. Hospital after he was found in an unconscious state inside his prison cell. He breathed his last this morning. His relatives have come from Maartalli to take the dead body.

Brigand Koose Munisamy Veerappan, whom the Police claimed to have killed in an encounter on October 18, 2004, in a village near Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu, had planned the Palar bomb blast that took place on April 9, 1993, in which 22 persons, including five Policemen, two forest guards and informers, were killed after Veerappan trapped them with landmines in the dense forests on the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border.

In the subsequent Court case, four were convicted as they were booked under TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act).

They were Moris Gownder Bilavendran, Anthoniappa Simon, Joseph Gnanaprakasam and Kolandaiyappa Mathaiyan (Meese Madaiah).

Of them, Simon passed away in jail. They were sentenced to death and later the Supreme Court commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment as there was a delay in executing the death sentence. Mani from Maartalli village, a close relative of Bilavendran, also was an accused in the case, but he was released for want of evidence.

The accused had approached the President with mercy petition and was subsequently rejected. The accused had repeatedly approached the Supreme Court against the delay.

"Like the death sentence is passed lawfully, the execution of the sentence must also be in consonance with the constitutional mandate and not in violation of the constitutional principles," the Supreme Court Bench had said on the inordinate delay in the execution of death sentences based on the appeal filed by the convicts.

Palar blast incident

The Special Task Force constituted to arrest Veerappan had a base in Palar near Male Mahadeshwara Hills. On April 9, 1993, IPS officer K. Gopalakrishnan had left the Palar base along with a team of 41 members which included Police from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, forest officials, forest guards and informers.

The team left in two vehicles, of which one was a bus carrying most of the team members, and a jeep carrying Gopalakrishnan who stood on the footboard of the jeep watching the road ahead. The Veerappan gang had planted IED (Improvised Explosive Device) landmines on the road in more than 14 places to obstruct the movement of convoy.

As the bus passed over the landmines, Simon and Madaiah allegedly detonated the gelatine sticks just outside the town of Surakkamaduvu, resulting in an explosion that threw the bus hundreds of feet away, killing 22 people. Over 30 personnel were injured. Not stopping at this, the brigand gang members then fired on the team from a vantage point in the forest.

Gopalakrishnan suffered severe injuries to his head and legs and underwent nine surgeries, returning for duty after 18 months and later retired as DIG in 2008. Notably, there was a campaign in Tamil Nadu against the death penalty awarded to the four accused. Later, the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Birth anniversary of Devaraj Urs

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (RKB&DM)- The 105th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs was celebrated in a simple manner at a programme organised by District Administration in association with Zilla Panchayat and Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department at Maneyangala in Kalamandira premises here this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, MLC A.H. Vishwanath said that Devaraj Urs was the champion of the Backward Classes who worked for the political, social and economical upliftment of all Backward communities and other marginalised sections.

Three Pre-matric Hostel students of the district, namely Rajani, Shreyas and Manohar, who top scored (more than 90 percent) in SSLC exam (2019-20) and three Post-matric Hostel students, namely A. Darshan, Chaitra and Rajeshwar, who top scored in PUC, were presented a cash prize of Rs. 1,500 each on the occasion. Earlier, floral tributes were offered to the portrait of Urs. Additional DC Manjunath Swamy, ZP Vice-President Mangala Somashekar, BCM Welfare Department District Officer Divya, Chutuku Shaitya Parishat President Prof. M.G.R. Urs and others were present.

Mysuru is Cleanest Medium City

(Continued from page 1)

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, "I visited Indore a few years ago, along with a member of a Japanese delegation. When we reached the city, I saw the Japanese going to various places in Indore. I asked him 'what are you doing?' He said 'I was trying to find filth, but couldn't'. I don't think there could be any bigger testimony to the achievement of the city." He told this to Shivraj Singh Chouhan after Indore won the award.

Congratulating the people of Indore, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the city has hit a four this time and surely will hit a six in future. Varanasi was adjudged the 'Best Ganga Town' in the Central Government's cleanliness survey.

Hardeep Singh Puri interacted with select beneficiaries, Swachhagrahis (Clean India Warriors), and Safai Karmis (Sanitation Workers) under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) from different parts of country through video-conference.

Mysuru has bagged fifth place among Top 25 Urban Local Bodies with more than 1 lakh population. First place was bagged by Indore followed by Surat, Navi Mumbai and Ambikapur.

In the overall National Level – above 40 lakh population – Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has bagged the Best Self Sustainable Mega City. In South Zone under the bracket of 50,000 to 1 lakh population, Hunsur was adjudged the Best City in Citizen Feedback. Ramanagara bagged the Best City Award in Innovation and Best Practices (population of 50,000 to 1 lakh) in South Zone.

K.R. Nagar was adjudged South Zone's Best City in Citizen Feedback under the population category of 25,000 to 50,000. In the population category of less than 25,000, H.D. Kote was adjudged the Best City in Citizen Feedback. Periyapatna Town Municipal Council was adjudged South Zone Cleanest City under the population category of less than 25,000.

The virtual ceremony was organised at Mysore Palace and over nine Pourakarmikas including Manjula and Nanjundaswamy who were selected for the interaction with the Minister were seated in the front row. As the award for Mysuru was announced, attendees and the Pourakarmikas cheered the news.

MP Pratap Simha, Mayor Tasneem, Deputy Mayor C. Sridhar, MLA S.A. Ramdas, over 20 Corporators including former Mayor Ayub Khan, M.U. Subbaiah, Gopi, Prema Shankaregowda and Shivakumar were present. MCC Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar, Corporation Health Officers Dr. D.G. Nagaraju and Dr. Jayanth were also present.

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UTTARA KRIYA

Uttara Kriya will be held on 21.08.2020, 12am at Pashchima Vahini in Srirangapatna. Please attend the ceremony and pray for the departed soul. Lunch 12.30pm

Smt. K. Meenakshi
Expired on 09.08.2020
– Son: Chandra Reddy, V.P. Reddy, Nirmaladevi, Raghurama Reddy, Sandeep Reddy, Devikishor Reddy; Family Members & Relatives.

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— Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued to the General Public that Sri. **PAPANNA**, Age 60 years, S/o. Late. Cheluvegowda, R/at Kethapura village, Sosale Hobli, T.N. Pura Taluk, Mysuru District, has agreed to sell the Schedule Item-1 Property and **Smt. ASHA**, Age 51 years, W/o Sri. Gururaj, R/at No. 1580, 5th Main, 12th Cross, H.B.Block, Ramakrishnanagara, Mysuru, has agreed to sell the Schedule Item-2 Property to my client.

Any person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim on the schedule property or any part thereof is hereby required to communicate the same in writing, to the undersigned at, **677/A, 2-3, First Floor, New Sayyaji Rao Road, Fort Mohalla, MYSORE-570 004**, along with documentary evidence, within **FIFTEEN (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice, failing which, the sale transaction of the schedule property will be completed on the basis that there are no claims of any/all over nature with respect of the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY.**

SCHEDULE

ITEM-1

All the piece and parcel of the Agricultural Dry Land bearing **Sy. No. 316/4** (earlier Sy. No. 316/3), measuring Ten Guntas (0.10.00.00), situated at Kadakola Village, Jayapura Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and bounded on: EAST By Mysuru-Nanjangudu Road, WEST By Sy. No. 316/3 Block I, NORTH By Sy. No. 316/5, SOUTH By Sy. No. 316/3.

ITEM-2

All the piece and parcel of the Agricultural Dry Land bearing **Sy. No. 316/5** (earlier Sy. No. 316/3), measuring Twelve Guntas (0.12.00.00), situated at Kadakola Village, Jayapura Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and bounded on: EAST By Mysuru-Nanjangudu Road, WEST By Sy. No. 316/3 Block I, NORTH By Sy. No. 316/4, SOUTH By Sy. No. 316/3 Block I.

Place: MYSORE
Date: 20.08.2020

Sd/- **M.N. Prakash Kalappa,**
ADVOCATE & LEGAL CONSULTANT, #2-3, First Floor, PRI Complex, 677/A, New Sayyaji Rao Road, Fort Mohalla, Mysore-570 004. Cell: 9343112555
E-mail: mnprakash.kalappa@gmail.com

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

Fat Buddhist Monks

This is a story of two fat, Buddhist monks. One story comes from China and the other comes from Thailand. Many people link them with the Buddha, but they come from various local traditions that were absorbed into Buddhism.

The first is the popular Laughing Buddha. In China, he is called Budai. In Japan, he was called Hotei. He is a semi-historical Chinese monk, who lived 1,000 years ago who became part of the Zen pantheon. This was done in the hope that the induction of such likeable, odd figures would call people to follow Zen Buddhism. The story goes that he was a fat, bald monk who wore a robe and carried few possessions in a sack cloth. But, although he was poor and had nothing, he was always content. He would always smile, laugh and entertain children with song and dance. Children adored him and followed him, whenever he entered the village. He would laugh and pat his large belly, give them little gifts from his bag. He never complained, slept without a blanket and always seemed satisfied. Thus, his image became associated with contentment and abundance. Many people claimed he was Maitreya Buddha or he will be reborn as the Maitreya Buddha or the Buddha of the future. Clearly, the Laughing Buddha had his origin in local Daoist tradition. His image is nowadays used as part of Feng-Shui to attract positive energy and fortune. Some people believe that the idea of Budai spread to the Christian world inspiring the character of Santa Claus.

The second fat monk is Phra Sankajai from Thailand. Known as arhat Kaatyana or Kaccana, his image is very much like the Laughing or Fat Buddha. Except he is not bald, he has matted hair like the Buddha and he is in a meditative posture. Not laughing; but serene. He wears an upper garment, like Buddha, covering one shoulder, leaving the other one exposed. By contrast, the Laughing Buddha exposes his chest. The story goes from Thai folklore that Phra Sankajai was so handsome that even men who saw him fell in love with him, and wished he was a woman. In another story, he overheard angels comparing him to the Buddha and considered this to be inappropriate. Shamed by both these incidents, he decided to change his body into an unpleasantly fat one so people would leave him alone. There are many stories in mythology where women make themselves ugly, so that they can pursue the spiritual path. This is one of the rare examples where a man undergoes changes and makes himself ugly (though being fat may not be ugly in many cultures), to follow the spiritual path.

The idea of a fat God is popular in many cultures. They embody contentment and abundance. In India, they are called yaksha moortis and are associated with abundance. Ganesha falls in this spectrum of images. In many South Indian weddings, couples are given the image of a fat old couple, known as tata-tati, or grandpa-grandma, chewing betel and seated on a swing. They represent a life well lived.

devdutt@devdutt.com

Naganahalli Satellite Terminal DPR ready; awaits approval

SWR Mysuru DRM holds virtual press meet

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (RK&BCT)- The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Satellite Railway Terminal at Naganahalli by South Western Railways (SWR) Mysuru Division was ready and has to be approved by the Central Railway Board, informed Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Aparna Garg.

Addressing a virtual press conference along with senior officials of the Division and officials from Construction Wing, the DRM said that the satellite terminal at Naganahalli was sanctioned by Railway Board in 2018-19 and SWR estimated the project at Rs. 789.29 crore. A DPR for phase-I works at a cost of Rs. 495 crore was submitted to the Board in August 2019.

"Four platforms, four stabling lines and two pit lines were planned under phase I. In phase-II, four stabling lines and two pit lines are planned. The project needs 165 acres of land and the proposal for land has been sent to the State Government," she said.

Once the Naganahalli terminal station becomes a reality, there will be more scope for additional trains to come to Mysuru, especially from Bengaluru. Naganahalli terminal's objective is to decongest the city as well as to provide better service to passengers residing in sub-urban areas. The project is planned on the outskirts of the city where trains can originate or terminate.

Naganahalli is around 8.55 kms from Mysuru on Mysuru-Bengaluru broad gauge section. Among the benefits of the Naganahalli terminal are, many new services can be started and it will ease pressure on Mysuru City Railway Station that is presently handling about 90 passenger-carrying trains per day.

Introduction of new services with the existing infrastructure at the City Railway Station is impossible and the Naganahalli terminal can take care of the projected passenger traffic and achieve a growth of 10 percent annually for the next 20-25 years. Initially, the terminal station was proposed at Kadakola Railway Station, but the Railway authorities later decided to have a terminal station at Naganahalli that comes before the Mysuru City Railway Station.

Freight volume

Listing other achievements, Aparna Garg said that the Division was aiming to increase the volume of freight to 8.20 million tonnes (MT) in the year 2020-21. "The highest volume of freight by the Division was 8.13 MT in the year 2019-20. Now, several measures have been taken to achieve the new target," she added.

With a view to amplify freight traffic, Business Development Unit (BDU) headed by Senior Operations Manager with the multi-disciplinary team of Officers has been set up. "We have conducted several rounds of meeting with the officials and freight customers and we have reached out to the Confederation of Industry (CII), Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) to capture traffic of industrial and agricultural commodities," she said.

Waiting lounges

For the convenience of passengers, spacious waiting lounges have been provided at all Stations between Nanjangud and Subramanya. Special emphasis has been laid to passenger convenience and amenities. "The first ever parcel train was also run from Nanjangud to Howrah carrying Nestle products and the Division has taken up improvement of three goods sheds in a phased manner to facilitate freight customers," she added.

Mysuru-Kushalnagar Railway Line's Final Location Survey by March 2021

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (RK&BCT)- The Final Location Survey (FLS) for laying a new Railway Line between Mysuru and Kushalnagar in Kodagu district will be completed by March 2021. The project has been mired in controversy with opposition from environmental groups.

Speaking at a virtual press conference highlighting the achievements and good works done during pre and post lockdown period, SWR Mysuru Divisional Railway Manager Aparna Garg yesterday said that the tender for FLS was being finalised and they hoped to complete the same by March 2021.

The Ministry of Railways has earmarked Rs.1,855 crore for the 87-km new line between Belagola in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district and Kushalnagar in Somwarpet taluk of Kodagu district. The project has been mentioned in the Pink Book (a registry detailing all approved projects and allocations made) of Indian Railways.

Mysuru-Madikeri Railway Line Project was first proposed during UPA era in 2011 and was shelved after a survey by the Railways deemed the route to be unprofitable. The Railway Line was listed in Railway Budget 2016-17 under "new line" category at an estimated cost of Rs.667 crore and the techno-economic survey was completed.

But the project — originally mooted over 100 years ago — did not gain further traction. The funding was to be made under the extra budgetary allocation, but the project was stuck in the maze of bureaucracy. The Railways had conducted a detailed survey for the Mysuru-Kushalnagar Line but the survey for the Kushalnagar-Madikeri section could not be conducted as the Forest Department did not give permission for the same. Now the Railways have clarified that the proposed Railway Line would end at Kushalnagar.

The proposed Railway Line has, however, earned the wrath of environmentalists and green activists who argue that the Railway Line would cause irreparable damage to River Cauvery and also increase man-elephant conflict which is high in the region.

Environmentalists, who have approached the High Court, said that they have no objection to the survey but as per the Court directive, the concerns expressed by environmentalists have to be taken into consideration before the Railways approve the Detailed Project Report.

CM to offer Bagina to KRS and Kabini Dams tomorrow

Mysuru, Aug. 20- With KRS and Kabini Dams full to the brim, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will offer Bagina to both the Dams tomorrow (Aug. 21).

B.S.Yediyurappa

The CM, who will fly by a helicopter from Bengaluru will land at KRS helipad at 11.50 am and offer Bagina to KRS Dam in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district at 12.05 pm and offer prayers to Goddess Cauvery.

Thereafter he will leave for Kabini Dam in Saragur taluk of Mysuru district and offer Bagina to the Dam at 1.15 pm. He will fly back to Bengaluru at 1.40 pm.

Mandya DC inspects KRS Dam

With Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa scheduled to offer Bagina to KRS dam tomorrow (Aug. 21), Mandya DC Dr. M.V. Venkatesh visited the Dam in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district yesterday and reviewed the preparations.

The DC inspected the two helipads near the Dam, the spot on the Dam from where the CM will offer Bagina, statue of Goddess Cauvery in Brindavan Gardens and also the spot where the CM will address the public and speak to the media.

Dr. Venkatesh directed the officials to carry out COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) on all persons who will meet the CM with their pleas and memorandums, for which 250 RAT kits are ready.

Mandya SP Parashuram, Additional SP Shobharani, Assistant Commissioner Shivanandamurthy, Tahsildar M.V. Roopa, CNNL SE Vijay Kumar, EE M.B. Raju, AEE Vasudev and other officials were present.

Bhoomi Puja for bridge construction at Kabini Dam on Aug.21

H.D. Kote, Aug. 20 (Manju)- Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who will be offering Bagina to Kabini Dam near Beechanahalli in Saragur taluk of Mysuru district tomorrow (Aug. 21), will also perform *Bhoomi Puja* for the Dam bridge and concretisation of approach road to the Dam.

Announcing this to press persons after holding a meeting with officials at the TB near the Dam site at Beechanahalli in Saragur taluk yesterday, H.D. Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu said that the construction of the Dam bridge was the dream of his father late Chikkamadu.

"I am happy that my father's dream is being realised now with the CM performing *Bhoomi Puja* for the bridge construction tomorrow. I am thankful to the CM and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar," he said.

Continuing, Anil Chikkamadu said that the bridge construction is being taken up at a cost of Rs. 25.30 crore and concretisation of the Dam approach road at a cost of Rs.25 crore under the Government's TSP Scheme.

Stressing on the need for officials to take necessary precautions in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic spread, he said that officials should invite all people representatives for the Chief Minister's programme.

After inspecting the spot where the Chief Minister will perform *Bhoomi Puja,* the MLA inspected the entire Dam site and discussed with the officials the precautionary and safety measures to be taken.

H.D. Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu with other officers at Kabini Dam in Saragur taluk of Mysuru district yesterday.

CNNL Chief Engineer Shankaregowda, EE Chandrakumar, Additional SP R. Shivakumar, Assistant Commissioner Veena, Tahsildar R. Manjunath,Taluk Health Officer Dr. T. Ravikumar, Excise SI U.S. Geetha, Dam EE N. Sujatha, AEE Molagavi, Circle Inspector Raghu and others were present.

Top District Officers under home quarantine

Mysuru, Aug. 20- Even as Mysuru district is preparing to receive the Chief Minister, who will be arriving to offer Bagina to Kabini Dam tomorrow (Aug. 21), top officers of the district — Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta and SP C.B. Ryshyanth — have gone into home quarantine, after their sub-ordinate staff tested positive for the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

While DC Abhiram Sankar is in self isolation since Tuesday after his car driver tested positive for the virus, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde and City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta are under home quarantine after one of their office-staff tested COVID-19 positive and SP C.B. Ryshyanth is under home quarantine since Monday after he himself tested positive.

As these top officers are under quarantine, they may not be able to take part in the Chief Minister's programme in the district tomorrow.

Also, these officers did not take part in the Prime Minister's virtual 'Swachh Mahotsav' programme that took place in the Palace premises today (Aug. 20), according to sources.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mandya

Figures as per Government Media Bulletin released last evening

Positive cases yesterday	:	185
Total positive cases	:	3,739
Total discharges	:	2,193
Total deaths	:	39
Total active cases	:	1,507

Chamarajanagar

Positive cases yesterday	:	111
Total positive cases	:	1,777
Total discharges	:	1,352
Total deaths	:	22
Total active cases	:	395

Kodagu

Positive cases yesterday	:	38
Total positive cases	:	1,031
Total discharges	:	667
Total deaths	:	12
Total active cases	:	352

Hassan

Positive cases yesterday	:	228
Total positive cases	:	5,247
Total discharges	:	3,302
Total deaths	:	139
Total active cases	:	1,806

Gold chain robbed from the dead

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (MK&KS)- An incident of miscreants allegedly robbing a gold chain of a woman, who died of COVID at the COVID Hospital, has come to light lately.

A 56-year-old woman, who was admitted to the COVID Hospital on KRS Road after she tested positive, succumbed to the disease at the Hospital on Aug. 12. But when the hospital staff handed over the woman's body to the family members on Aug. 13, they found the 26 grams gold chain missing.

A case has been registered at Metagalli Police Station in this regard.

BABU'S BANTER

By M.V. Nagendra Babu

WORD OF THE DAY

Ferret

Pronunciation: FAIR-ut.
Meaning: To hunt game with ferrets; to drive out of a hiding place; to find and bring to light by searching — usually used with out.
Origin: Since the 14th century, English speakers have used ferret as the name of a small domesticated animal of the weasel family. The word came to us by way of Anglo-French and can be traced back to Latin fur, meaning "thief." These days ferrets are often kept as pets, but previously they were used to hunt rabbits, rats, and other vermin, and to drive them from their underground burrows. By the 15th century, the verb ferret was being used of the action of hunting with ferrets. By the late 16th century, the verb had taken on figurative uses as well. Today, we most frequently encounter the verb ferret in the sense of "to find and bring to light by searching."
Example: "Quarantining was invented during the first wave of bubonic plague in the 14th century, but it was deployed more systematically during the Great Plague [of London, 1665-1666]. Public servants called searchers ferreted out new cases of plague, and quarantined sick people along with everyone who shared their homes.'" — Annalee Newitz

THE ODD WORD

Fadoodle

Nonsense.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Fight fire with fire

Meaning: The phrase fight fire with fire means to retaliate with a similar form of attack that was used against you.
Origin: The origin of this phrase is believed to come from firefighters, who literally fight fire with fire depending on what method the situation calls for. That's right, water is not always the best way to combat a raging inferno, sometimes other techniques are needed for success. One of these techniques that firefighters use is exactly what the phrase says—they fight against a fire by making their own. Heat against heat!
How does it work? The name of this technique is called backfiring and firemen typically use it to help control violent forest fires. From what I understand, the strategy involves intentionally setting a fire in front of the oncoming primary fire in order to burn away any nearby timber and other flammable material in the area. That way, once the primary fire reaches that area, it will have nothing left to fuel itself. This prevents the primary fire from advancing any further and eventually it goes out.
The phrase makes an appearance in print as early as 1826, in the Richmond Enquirer newspaper: "The canal owners must fight fire with fire, by introducing the use of steam boats on their canals;—or rail-roads will supersede in a considerable degree the use of water-carriage."

QUOTE BOX

What fire does not destroy, it hardens. **—Oscar Wilde**

RIDDLE THIS

What is cut on a table, but is never eaten?

Answer: A deck of cards.

SUDOKU

					9		7	
							4	
9			6		2			1
3				6			8	5
		4				1		
7	5			2				6
6			3		7			9
	9							
	1		5					

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	8	5	6	3	1	4	7
1	3	4	6	9	7	5	2	8
6	5	7	1	4	2	3	9	6
2	9	3	8	1	4	7	6	5
8	1	5	7	2	9	4	6	3
4	7	6	3	5	6	9	1	2
7	8	1	4	6	5	2	3	9
3	4	9	2	7	8	6	5	1
5	6	2	9	3	1	8	7	4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

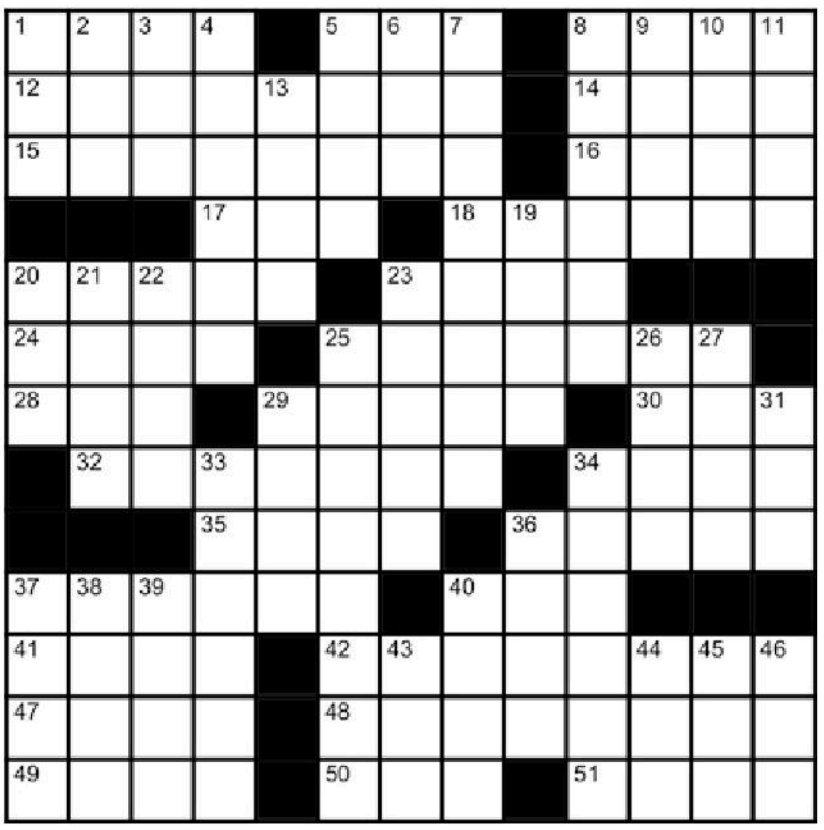
1 Unwieldy ship
5 Music director Malik
8 Ruler of Olympus
12 At the same pitch (2,6)
14 Bread spread ?
15 Causing dissension
16 Not bright, not sharp
17 US soldiers
18 ___ a lie : proved the falsehood ?
20 Foot-ways or narrow roads
23 Author Ferber
24 Obscene talk
25 Clearly displayed or indicated
28 Teenage lout
29 Office worker in short
30 Have regrets
32 South sea islander
34 Political cartoonist Thomas
35 Cost of occupation
36 Lara or J P of Bollywood?
37 Canadian province
40 Curve
41 Persuade or induce
42 Opposed, matched or equalled ?
47 A conception
48 Distance measuring instrument
49 ___ the tide : reverse trend of events ?
50 __ drop silence
51 ___ passing by : passing by in an unhurried manner ?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

S	E	A	L	E	D	■	D	J	A	N	G	O		
P	■	C	I	T	E	■	A	A	L	■	■	B		
A	■	C	E	N	T	A	U	R	I	■	■	E		
S	A	E	■	A	E	O	N	S	■	T	A	Y		
M	I	L	K	■	R	A	T	■	G	O	N	E		
S	M	E	L	L	S	■	S	H	R	O	U	D		
■	■	R	A	I	■	■	O	A	T	■	■	■		
B	E	A	U	N	E	■	A	N	D	H	R	A		
R	O	T	S	■	X	V	I	■	E	P	O	S		
A	S	E	■	H	E	I	R	S	■	A	M	S		
N	■	■	H	A	M	S	T	E	R	S	■	A		
D	■	■	A	N	P	■	E	M	I	T	■	Y		
S	E	X	I	S	T	■	L	I	B	E	L	S		

DOWN

1 Concealed oneself
2 "One", as a prefix
3 Brother of Kush
4 Galahad or Gawain, for two
5 ___ __ where is : sales condition ? (2,2)
6 Calendar abbr.
7 Everlasting
8 12 constellations
9 12th month of the Jewish calendar
10 River to the Ubangi
11 Be ___ on : be enthusiastic about ?
13 Sister of Osiris
19 "A" in A.D. ?
20 "Gangnam Style" rapper
21 Run ___ : go berserk (var.)
22 Brass instrument
23 Incident
25 Short severe hairstyle (4,4)
26 "E" in Q.E.D. ?
27 Allergy irritant
29 WWI German admiral
31 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
33 British comic role (2,4)
34 Centres of atoms
36 Small measure of drink
37 Cease to occupy
38 Language similar to Hindi
39 Elbe tributary
40 River of Shakespeare's Stratford
43 Uganda's Amin
44 Limited, in short
45 Sniggler's catch
46 Not wet



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

NYF NOAF NL BFTROB NYF BLLD OG

UYFK NYF GMK OG GYOKOKH.

TODAY'S CLUE: H EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Do not condemn the judgement of another because it differs from your own. You may both be wrong.

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Plea to develop park at KSRTC Colony

A park situated at KSRTC Colony in Bannimantap 'C' Layout is in a pathetic state and has become a place for cattle grazing and illegal activities. Residents say that though the matter was brought to the notice of the local area representative and also to the civic authorities, no action has been taken till date to develop the park. The residents have urged the authorities concerned to take steps to develop the park and prevent illegal actives in the park.

Urge to clean vacant space at Siddartha Layout

A vacant space on Moksha Marga in Siddartha Layout is being used to dump debris of all kind and also to bury dead animals. This place is also filled with weeds and is being used by the public to answer nature's call. Residents have urged the authorities concerned to take steps to get the place cleaned and also prevent people from dumping debris and garbage.

Debris dumping causing problems to residents of Sai Layout

Huge quantity of debris is being dumped at Sai Layout, behind Preethi Layout in Srirampura (near Lingambudhi Road towards Ring Road) causing a lot of problems to the residents living in the surroundings. Residents allege that foul smell is emanating from the debris dump and mosquitoes have increased in the vicinity. Authorities concerned are urged to take steps to prevent dumping of debris for the safety of the residents.

Writer wants installation of Devaraj Urs Statue in Mysuru

Mysuru, Aug. 20 (PM&DM)- Senior writer Prof. Kalegowda Nagavara has urged the State Government to install a statue of former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs in Mysuru.

He was speaking at D. Devaraj Urs award conferment programme organised under the joint aegis of Karnataka Rajya Hindulida Vargagala Jagruta Vedike and Kannada Sahitya Kalakoota at Pathrakartara Bhavan here yesterday.

Pointing out that Devaraj Urs was a champion of the cause of backward classes, Nagavara said that the former Chief Minister always stood for Social Justice. Stating that it is regretful to note that Mysuru, the home district of Devaraj Urs, does not have his statue, he said that the Govt. must come forward for installing the statue of the late former Chief Minister as a honour to him.

M.N. Sooraj Hegde, the grandson of D. Devaraj Urs, who was a chief guest, said that the political career of his late grandfather can be classified under two categories — One about his close association and political journey with late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the other, after he parted ways with Indira Gandhi and the Congress, following differences.

Recalling Devaraj Urs' contribution for the development of the State, he said that the late leader is an inspiration for the younger generation.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Vichara Vedike President B.S. Shivanna, Bharat Dalit Sahitya Academy Karnataka Unit President C. Venkatesh, Senior Journalist B.S. Harish and writer Ksheerasagar were conferred D. Devaraj Urs Award on the occasion.

Former Health and Family Welfare Department Director Dr. D. Thimmaiah, Mysuru District Journalists Association President C.K. Mahendra, former District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Maddikere Gopal, Karnataka Rajya Hindulida Vargagala Jagruta Vedike President K.S. Shivaramu and Kannada Sahitya Kalakoota President M. Chandrashekar were present.

Minister appeals Union Government to establish Indian Heritage Conservation Varsity at Mysuru

C.T. Ravi

New Delhi, Aug. 20- With Mysuru known as the cultural capital of Karnataka and also for its rich heritage, the State's Kannada and Culture Minister C.T. Ravi has appealed the Union Government to set up an Indian Heritage Conservation Varsity declared in this year's Union Budget, at Mysuru.

Ravi, who met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at New Delhi on Tuesday, presented her a memorandum seeking to establish the University at Mysuru, befitting the status of the city as the cultural and heritage capital of Karnataka.

Pointing out that Mysuru is a very prominent tourist destination in South India, with thousands of tourists, both domestic and International, visiting the city everyday, Ravi said that the State Government was willing to extend whatever help required, including allotment of land, for the establishment of the varsity in Mysuru.

Maintaining that the setting up of the Varsity in Mysuru will also benefit other South Indian States, Ravi argued that Mysuru, which is the land of Palaces and Parks, is the ideal place for the University.

Noting that Mysuru also hosts the world famous Dasara every year, Ravi said that Mysuru epitomises the cultural glory of the State with its innumerable number of heritage structures and as such, the Union Government should seriously consider the establishment of Heritage Conservation University in Mysuru.

Also, the city has enough land in serene surroundings for location of the University, he added.

Liquid oxygen units to be established at all Government Hospitals: Minister

Dr. Sudhakar

Bengaluru, Aug. 20 (KMS &KS)- "Liquid oxygen units would be established at all Government Hospitals and Medical College Hospitals and would be supplied as per the demand," said Medical Education Minister Dr. Sudhakar. He was speaking after visiting KIMS Hospital, where he took stock of the availability of oxygen and facilities available for the patients on Tuesday.

Continuing, he said that as the number of COVID patients were increasing day-by-day, the demand for oxygen was also increasing and added that there was shortage of oxygen at KIMS Hospital and hence the patients were immediately shifted to Bowring and Victoria Hospitals.

"We are taking steps to set up oxygen plants at all Government Hospitals across the State. We are in contact with private firms which supply liquid oxygen. The Principal Secretary to the Industries Department is in touch with them," the Minister said.

"There are some issues with supply of cylinders to hospitals. I have directed the officials to make necessary arrangements and ensure adequate supply of liquid oxygen to all Hospitals and Medical Colleges," he added.

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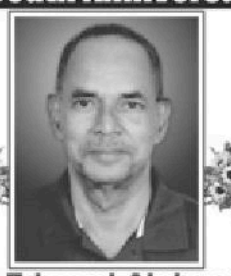
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